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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1909

THE DUTY OF THE AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGE¹

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A QUARTER of a century ago the sort of education for which the Kansas State Agricultural College stands was in its experimental stage. Its right to a place among the well-directed efforts of our people was seriously questioned.

That in this brief period these agricultural and mechanical colleges should completely break down opposition, allay prejudice and come into a commanding position, was beyond the hope of even their most ardent advocates.

"The influences which were set in motion by the passage of the Morrill Act have already developed a new education."² President Schurman, of Cornell University, recently characterized the founding of the land-grant colleges of America, through which universal industrial education was made possible, as the third and perhaps the greatest epoch in the educational history of the world.

The impress of these institutions upon the systems of education has been no less important than that upon the industries themselves. From the very beginning the instruction in the mechanic arts and engineering was successful, and the men engaged in these industries were quickly brought to a realization of this fact and accepted in full confidence the college-made engineer.

¹ Inaugural address of Professor H. J. Waters, on the occasion of his formal installation as president of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas, November 11, 1909.

² President W. E. Stone, semi-centennial celebration of Michigan Agricultural College.